

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO & MEXICO MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS

1. DESPITE SEVERAL ATTEMPTS TO DO SO, WE WERE UNABLE TO MEET TO DISCUSS THE MEXICO MEETING WITH MINISTER CUTHBERT JOSEPH FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM MEXICO CITY DURING THE FEW DAYS BEFORE HE DEPARTED FOR GUYANA FOR CARICOM TRANSPORTATION DISCUSSIONS. HOWEVER, HE REPORTED T&T ACTIVITIES AT THE MEETING IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN THE EVENING NEWS FEBRUARY 28.

2. MINISTER JOSEPH CLAIMED THAT IT WAS AT THE INSISTENCE OF THE T&T DELEGATION IN MEXICO CITY THAT ALL OIL EXPORTING COUNTRIES OF THE HEMISPHERE PRESENTED A UNITED FRONT AGAINST INCLUDING THE ENERGY CRISIS IN THE DISCUSSIONS. JOSEPH EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT ENERGY SHOULD BE LOOKED AT IN THE CONTEXT OF PRICES FOR ALL COMMODITIES SUCH AS WHEAT, BAUXITE AND SUGAR. THE U.N. IS THE PROPER FORUM TO DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS, ACCORDING TO JOSEPH.

3. IN GENERAL COMMENTS TO THE REPORTER, JOSEPH SAID THAT

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SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS MANIFESTED GOOD INTENTIONS IN

RESPONSE TO LATIN AMERICAN DEMANDS FOR BETTER AND MORE JUST CONDITIONS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PEOPLES OF THE HEMISPHERE. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT GAVE RECOGNITION TO

THE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLES OF THE HEMISPHERE TO OWN AND CONTROL VITAL NATIONAL RESOURCES. JOSEPH ADDED THAT DR. KISSINGER HAD AGREED THAT THERE WAS URGENT NEED TO ESTABLISH A CODE OF CONDUCT TO REGULATE THE OPERATIONS OF MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS. HE ALSO NOTED THE JOINT DECLARATION WITH PANAMA, AND THE U.S. AGREEMENT WITH PERU FOR COMPENSATION, AS SIGNS OF USG GOOD INTENTIONS.

4. JOSEPH EMPHASIZED THAT THE CONFERENCE EXPRESSED A NEW MOVE ON THE PART OF THE USG TO PLACE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ON A NEW FOOTING. WE HAVE SEPARATELY HEARD FROM A DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUE THAT DR. JOSEPH PRIVATELY EXPRESSED WARM ADMIRATION A FEW DAYS AGO FOR DR. KISSINGER AND HIS ROLE AT MEXICO CITY.

5. COMMENT: DISCOUNTING SOMEWHAT TRINIDADIAN CLAIM TO HAVE PLAYED CENTRAL ROLE AND TO HAVE "PREVENTED ENERGY CRISIS FROM BEING DISCUSSED AT THE CONFERENCE" (AS HEADLINED IN LOCAL PRESS) VIEWS OUTLINED IN PRESS INTERVIEW ABOVE BELIEVED TO REPRESENT ACCURATELY GOTT POSITIONS AND BE CONSISTENT WITH INDICATIONS RECEIVED PRIOR TO CONFERENCE. EMPHASIS IS ON SOLIDARITY WITH REGION AND PROMOTION OF CODES OF ECONOMIC CONDUCT, YET JOSEPH CLEARLY CAME AWAY FROM MEXICO IMPRESSED BY DR. KISSENGER AND NEW USG POSTURE OF SYMPATHETIC DIALOGUE WITH SMALLER NATIONS OF HEMISPHERE.
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